

Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to dedicate my remarks and give my thanks to Lee Bothwell, the pilot of that helicopter; to Marna Fleetwood, a nurse on the helicopter; and to Amy Reeby, another nurse on the helicopter. They are true heroes. I offer my condolences to their young families. All of them have young children. I hope they rest in peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SAXTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mrs. ROUKEMA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. ROUKEMA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

IMPORTANCE OF A BALANCED BUDGET, WELFARE REFORM AND MEDICARE TO AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from 4 days in Georgia visiting with constituents, meeting with a few civic clubs, and riding in a parade or two. In talking around the district that I represent, the coastal area of Georgia, Georgia's first district, the three predominant things that seem to be on people's minds are balancing the budget, reforming welfare, and the changes in the Medicare Program.

On balancing the budget, even though the other body across the Hall failed to pass the balanced budget amendment, it is absolutely undeniable that the American people want us to balance the budget. As a member of the Committee on Appropriations I can say that we are moving in that direction. We have 1 appropriations bill left out of 13. Hopefully, we will pass that this week or next week. When we do, we will have all of our appropriations bills passed, which take us to having a balanced budget by the year 2002.

The importance of this, Mr. Speaker, is that as we have these billion dollar deficits each year, it takes money away from other programs and we are unable to pay down the debt. Now all we are doing is servicing the interest. Currently, the interest on the national

debt is the third largest item in our budget every year. In 2 years that interest is expected to exceed all of the military spending. Once we get rid of the deficit, we can start paying off the principal beyond the interest of the debt. Of course, it will take many, many years. We have a \$4.8 trillion debt.

The definition, Mr. Speaker, of a trillion, to illustrate it, and, first of all, it is almost beyond comprehension, but if we spent \$100,000 a minute, 24 hours a day, it would take 19 years to get to \$1 trillion. We currently have a debt of \$4.8 trillion. We simply cannot pass that on to the children of the United States of America.

I think it is very important that this House is moving toward a balanced budget as fast as we can. I certainly hope the folks in the other body feel the same way.

We have passed welfare reform in the House. Our welfare reform has four significant planks to it.

No. 1, a work requirement. If an individual is able-bodied, in order to get welfare, they should have to work.

No. 2, a mechanism to discourage illegitimate births, since that is one of the biggest problems in America today.

No. 3, State flexibility. We may do it differently in Georgia than the folks in New York, but let us make those decisions.

And No. 4, no welfare benefits to illegal aliens. We want to help them if they are hurt in this country, but we also want them to get back home if they are not American citizens, so that they are not coming over to America to enjoy the benefits of our generous public benefits system.

The third thing people are interested in, of course, is the Medicare Program. The current trustees in April said that Medicare is going broke. We have to move to save it. We are trying to slow the growth of it, trying to make the growth of Medicare inflation about 6 percent, which is closer to what it is in regular medical inflation. Actually, regular medical inflation was down last year. It was not even inflation. But the costs were down.

The thing we need to do on Medicare is protect and preserve it by simplifying it. We want to give senior citizens a whole list of options: choice of doctors, choice of traditional fee-for-service plans, choice of traditional Medicare, and, along with that, some other options like Medisave accounts and so forth.

We believe all this can be done, Mr. Speaker, and the result will be a better product to American seniors. Again, we want to protect and preserve it.

The big frustration that the American people seem to be having is while we have done a lot of things in the House, across the Hall, in the other body, they are taking the route of inaction. It is true today they passed welfare reform, but we passed ours back in March. It is time to bring these issues to a question. Will the other body and

will the executive branch join the House, the lower Chamber, in making the reforms necessary to preserve our country?

I hope that they will, because we are clearly on the road to personal responsibility, personal discipline, balancing the budget, lowering taxes, decreasing Government regulation and micromanagement out of Washington, and, best of all and most importantly, increasing personal freedom. We cannot do it alone. We have to have the cooperation of the full legislative branch of Government, which means the other body, and we have to have the executive branch to sign this into law.

Mr. Speaker, if we can get the cooperation of the folks across the hall, I believe we will have a balanced budget, we will have Medicare reform, and we will have welfare reform. This, Mr. Speaker, I believe, is what the American people are asking for.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to my colleagues regarding the important legislation which is before the House in order to reduce domestic violence here and across the United States. I wish to illustrate the importance of such legislation by a domestic violence conference which was held in my home of Montgomery County, PA, just this past Saturday. It is the third in a series of three conferences sponsored by Laurel House, which is the shelter for abused children and women, the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, and the Women's Center of Montgomery County, along with the Commission On Women and Families, sponsored by the county commissioners.

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In this case, all of them work together to make sure that legislative action, as well as court action and police action, is in fact brought together so that we can reduce violence in the home, reduce violence across America.

I have to compliment the police departments across the country, as well as in my home area of Pennsylvania, for doing so much with the Protection From Abuse Act, which requires there be protection for those who have been abused, to be able to have protective orders, to be absent from the marital home, and in fact have the tranquility and the privacy they deserve and be free of harm from the offending spouse.

The courts as well have been very sensitive in being involved in sensitivity programs. Many of our jurists have been involved with domestic violence awareness and are very sensitive now in their sentences and their treatment of such cases.

But I call to your attention, Mr. Speaker, to some legislation which has